

24. — An apparatus for testing a sample of biologic fluid quiescently residing within a chamber, said apparatus comprising:

—— a field illuminator for selectively illuminating a field of the sample, said sample field having a known or ascertainable area;

5 ——— a positioner, which is operable to selectively change the position of one of the chamber or said field illuminator relative to the other of the chamber or said field illuminator, thereby permitting selective illumination of a plurality of said sample fields within chamber; and

10 ——— means for spatially locating the chamber relative to said field illuminator, wherein said means for spatially locating the chamber relative to said field illuminator enables said field illuminator to be aligned with a particular spatial location within said chamber.

25. An apparatus for testing a sample of biologic fluid, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a disposable container having a label and a chamber for quiescently holding the sample, said label containing information which is used in the performance of one or more tests on the biologic fluid sample quiescently residing within said chamber;

(b) a reader module which receives said disposable container, said reader module including:

a label reader for reading said attached label, and thereby accessing said information;

a field illuminator for selectively illuminating a field of the sample, said sample field having a known or ascertainable area;

a positioner, which is operable to selectively change the position of one of said chamber or said field illuminator relative to the other of said chamber or said field illuminator, thereby permitting selective illumination of a plurality of said sample fields within said chamber; and

means for spatially locating said chamber relative to said field illuminator;

wherein said means for spatially locating said chamber relative to said field illuminator enables said field illuminator to be aligned with a particular spatial location within said chamber.

26. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said reader module further comprises: an image dissector, for converting an image of light passing through or emanating from each said sample field into an electronic data format useful for test purposes.

27. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said reader module further comprises:  
means for determining one of a through-plane thickness of or a volume of said sample field.

28. An apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:  
a programmable analyzer having a central processing unit;  
wherein said label reader transfers said information to said programmable analyzer, and  
5 said programmable analyzer interprets said information, identifying said one or more tests to  
be performed on the biologic fluid sample.

29. An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said programmable analyzer contains a  
plurality of instructions for performing said one or more tests.

30. An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said plurality of instructions are  
contained remote from said programmable analyzer and are accessed through said  
programmable analyzer.

31. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said reader module further  
comprises:  
means for determining one of a through-plane thickness or a volume of said sample  
field.